

You'll Like These Deere Combine Modifications

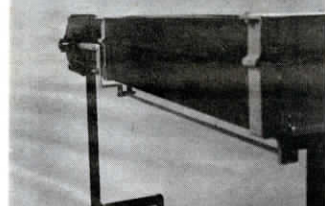
"Deere & Company makes good reliable combines but, like any other machine, they can always be improved," says Deere dealer Jim Dayton, of Shoal Lake, Manitoba, who constantly comes up with innovative modifications and attachments for Deere combines. Some of his ideas become commercial products, others he just likes to pass along. "I'm willing to talk to anybody on the phone. If you've got a problem you can't solve with your Deere combine, we might be able to help. If we've got a product that'll solve the problem, we'll tell you about it. If not, we'll help you anyway."

Dayton is responsible for the popular Winn-O-Bar attachment for combines that mounts in place of the vibrating shoe and finger bar on most combines (first featured in Vol. 10, No. 3). It consists of 16-in. long fingers that extend out over the front third of the top crop-cleaning sieve, moving up and down and back and forth to feed material through more evenly. The Winn-O-Bar has been sold throughout the U.S. and Canada and foreign countries.

Following are some of Dayton's latest new combine modifications.

Ground Level Tailings Elevator Chain Adjustment

"I've always hated having to climb up in the cab of my 7720 to adjust the tension on the tailings elevator chain and then having to get back down on the ground to see if I got



it right. When the Titan II machines came out, they came equipped with a ground level tensioner so I decided to make one to fit older combines," explains Dayton.

His chain tensioner clamps around the elevator. Once installed, you simply loosen a locknut on a tensioning rod, make your adjustment and then tighten it back down. Dayton sells an add-on kit for \$135 to fit any Deere combine from 1969 to 1984.

Anti-Spearing Attachment

Dayton says he's had tremendous interest in an attachment that he says keeps straw and stalks from "spearing" in the sieves when combining soybeans, corn, wheat, oats, barley and any other crop.

"We tested the attachment successfully last season in Canada, Nebraska and North Carolina. It worked great and in one 500 acre test plot a combine fitted with the attachment didn't have to be cleaned out once. Previously the operator had had to stop the combine several times a day because of severe spearing problems," says Dayton.

The anti-spearing device consists of a set of deflectors and a pair of plastic paddles that attach to augers between the straw walkers. Dayton says the kit he plans to produce will be easy to install. "We're going to continue testing this year. We've still got some bugs to work out, particularly in wheat and flax," he says.



Straw Chopper Lift Attachment

"Anytime we want to take the straw chopper off our 7720 it takes three men to do the job and then four men to put it back on. Using this lift attachment, I can put the chopper on and off myself and I weigh just 135 lbs.," says Dayton, noting that the chopper lift fits any Deere combine.

The attachment consists of a hand-cranked winch that mounts on the side of the rear hood assembly. The cable is threaded through a pipe that runs up the side and over to the top center of the hood. To lower the chopper, you wrap a chain assembly around the chopper, fasten it to a hook in the winch cable, and then drop the chopper to the ground. To remount the chopper, you simply back the combine back over the chopper and use the winch to hoist it up into place.

"We remove the chopper whenever we want to bale straw or burn it. This chopper lift lets me make the switch by myself in less time than it used to take me to find unwilling help," Dayton told FARM SHOW. The chopper lift kit sells for \$195.

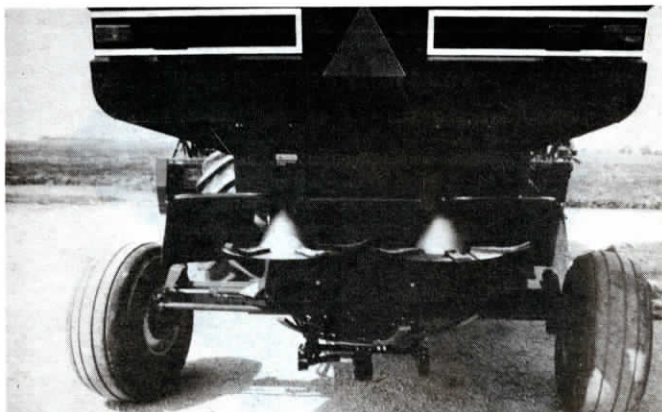
Relocate Fuel Filter

"The engine oil filter on Deere combines is hard to get at because the fuel filters are directly above it. Not only that, the diesel fuel tends to 'sweat' onto the oil filter, causing dirt to accumulate and making it even more difficult to change the oil filter," says Dayton.

To solve the problem, he remounted the fuel filter and its mounting bracket on the front corner of the grain tank which is at the rear of the engine compartment. He replaced the fuel line tubes with rubber fuel line.

Here's a list of several other modifications Dayton made to a 7720 that should work on most other Deere models.

- Added a face-type slip clutch to the pickup platform auger. Eliminates vibration and rattling that can shake the drive apart.
- Installed an adjustable windboard on the front of the clean grain sieve, and also made the "lips" on the front of the sieve separately adjustable from the rear ones. Works well in barley and wheat.
- Installed a deflector behind the concave which prevents the grain that is passing through the upper sections of the concave from getting into the walkers.
- Put a hinged door across the feeder-house extending out over the table auger, reducing dust coming out of the feeder-house.
- Added a ladder for ground level access to the engine compartment and a set of steps for safer entry into the grain tank from the operator's landing.
- Installed a grain tank drain which will



Chaff Spreader For Combines

New for most makes of combines is The Spreader, designed by Illinois farmers Eldon and Earl Hesterberg, of Gifford, to scatter chaff coming off the sieves which isn't spread by the combine's straw chopper.

"It doesn't replace the original chopper-spreader, and doesn't affect its operation," explains Eldon.

He feels The Spreader is "a must for minimum and no-till to prevent nutrient tie-up by trash, and to help eliminate plugging problems with fertilizer, planting and cultivating equipment."

Power for The Spreader is supplied by

the hydraulic return line from the reel. "No hydraulic fluid is robbed from this or other components," notes Eldon.

Fits all IH, Deere and Case-IH combines, and some other makes and models. Rubber paddles, affixed to a dished steel disk, do the spreading. Available in a 52 in. dia model (\$660) and a 44 in. dia. model (\$595). Both models mount to the rear axle. Width of the spreading pattern is adjustable (from about 10 to 30 ft.) by adjusting rotation speed.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The Spreader, Eldon and Earl Hesterberg, Rt. 1, Box 82A, Gifford, Ill. 61847 (ph 2217 568-7219, or 7917).

Straw Monitor

"You can prevent combine damage and reduce costly downtime with our new Straw Flow Monitor," says Jim Fisher, operations manager for Eltek Corp., Hagerstown, Ind.

The company's new light-activated sensor monitors the flow of straw, stalks or other crop debris through the straw walker and rear area of the combine.

It consists of a light source and a light sensor mounted inside the combine 1 ft. above and behind the end of the straw

walker. When debris begins to build up between the light and the sensor, a warning buzzer in the cab alerts the operator in time to prevent damage to the machine.

Retail price is \$128, complete with enough wiring to fit the largest combines with either positive or negative ground.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Eltek Corp., P.O. Box 229, Hagerstown, Ind. 47346 (ph 317 489-5007).

Combine Warning Lights For Grain Tank, Auger

A new do-it-yourself kit outfits combines with warning lights that tell when the grain tank is full and when the unloading auger is running.

Dan FitzSimmons, service manager at Arnold Implement, North Mankato, Minn., first put the kit together for local combine customers Claire and Greg Strobel, Mapleton, Minn., who told him that at least once a year, after a long day in the field, they'd pull away from a grain truck with the auger still engaged and not realize it till they were half way down the field. The same farmers also told FitzSimmons that they needed a warning system for their combine grain tank because they had trouble seeing it from

the cab.

"With help from the Strobels, I designed and installed a warning system on their Case/IH Axial Flow combine. The system worked so well we installed it on some of our other customers' machines and began selling a kit, complete with all parts, wire and directions, for \$85," FitzSimmons told FARM SHOW.

The grain tank warning system consists of a pressure-sensitive paddle switch mounted in the side of the grain tank. When the tank fills up and activates the switch, a light goes on above the operator's head.

The unloading auger alarm consists of a switch that mounts just below the unloading auger lever. The switch is activated when the lever comes into contact with an arm on the switch, turning on a light. When the auger shuts down, the light goes off.

"Both warning systems were used extensively last season with no problems," says FitzSimmons, noting that the kit is designed only for IH and Case/IH combines. "I'm sure it would fit other combines without much modification but we have no plans to do so at this time."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Arnold Implement, 1717 Howard Drive, No. Mankato, Minn. 56001 (ph 507 387-5515).

drain practically all the grain from the unloading auger sump into a container "instead of all over the ground. This drain also works well in the event of an unloading auger failure."

• "This year we plan to mount a straw spreader from a Deere model 65 combine above the walkers in our 7720 to see if we can further reduce walker loss, particularly in barley," says Dayton.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim S. Dayton, S.H. Dayton Ltd., P.O. Box 222, Shoal Lake, Manitoba R0J 1Z0 Canada (ph 204 759-2065).